

Different and Better: Jesus' Royal Entry – Luke 19:28-40

This week we are aiming to more deeply understand Jesus celebrated entry into Jerusalem – just days before his crucifixion.:

Luke 19:28-40

[28] And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ([29] When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, [30] saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. [31] If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" [32] So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. [33] And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" [34] And they said, "The Lord has need of it." [35] And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. [36] And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. [37] As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, [38] saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" [39] And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." [40] He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (ESV)

The events of Palm Sunday didn't just occur. Jesus was extremely intentional about how he entered the city, and the crowds got the message: he rode in as the promised messianic king. There is so much momentum here and the trajectory seems to be pointing Jesus squarely to the throne.

1) How do we see Jesus signal his messianic kingship? How do we see that the people got the message?

This just seems to make Jesus' crucifixion on Friday harder to explain at first. But looking closer we see that Jesus did not fit their expectations of the Messiah

- 2) What were the people's expectations of the Messiah? What did they think his coming would look like and mean for them?**
- 3) Everything Jesus does after his entrance to the city pushes back against these expectations. Why did his interactions around the temple and with the Pharisees evoke such a change in how he was viewed?**
- 4) The Jews trusted in things outside of Jesus for their standing before God. We often do the same thing. What are some things you are quick to look to for peace and comfort? What things, if they are attacked, evoke defensiveness in you because you cannot afford to lose them?**

We will not relinquish the things insufficient things we trust in until we realize there is a better place for our trust. Jesus didn't just devastate what they used to trust, he provided himself as the only thing we need trust.

5) In what ways did Jesus show himself to be the "true and better" Messiah? What does he provide for those who trust him?

- 6) How do we encourage one another as a church away from the “co-messiahs” we like to look to and instead to rest in Christ alone?
- 7) What does all of this mean for how we should understand and relate to the unbelieving world around us?

PRAYER

As we pray for each other, let's specifically lift up one another regarding the things we are tempted to put our trust in outside of Jesus. Let's also lift up our rebellious and lost world that is trusting in so many things that will disappoint and fail them.